

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works	(2) MEETING DATE 10/20/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Kate Ballantyne, Environmental Program Manager (805) 788-2765	
(4) SUBJECT Presentation of a project update and Septic System Decommissioning and Reuse Plan for the Los Osos Wastewater Project. District 2.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board accept the presentation from staff.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) {X} Board Business (Time Est. <u>45 min</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances {X} N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required {X} N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: 2/7/12 #22; 3/17/15 #17	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW David E. Grim			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 2			

Reference: 15OCT20-BB-1

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works
Kate Ballantyne, Environmental Program Manager
John Waddell, Project Manager

VIA: Mark Hutchinson, Deputy Director of Public Works

DATE: 10/20/2015

SUBJECT: Presentation of a project update and Septic System Decommissioning and Reuse Plan for the Los Osos Wastewater Project. District 2.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board accept the presentation from staff.

DISCUSSION

The County began efforts on the Los Osos Wastewater Project in 2006, following the passage of State Assembly Bill 2701 (Blakeslee) which allowed the County to assume responsibility for development of a community wastewater system for Los Osos. Upon completion of the necessary environmental permit and funding approvals, the project began construction in May 2012. Construction includes multiple phases, and most of the \$120 million in construction contracts are now complete. The water recycling facility is the remaining contract still in progress. It is 75% complete and planned to be ready to accept wastewater flows from the community in late-March 2016.

A major focus of current staff efforts and planning is on the upcoming lateral connection process, where each property owner must connect to the completed project. Public outreach and education is a critical part of the connection phase and includes several areas of focus.

- Financial assistance programs are being developed to assist low income, senior, and disabled residents with the costs of the project. Public Works is working with a non-profit housing agency to conduct workshops where individual homeowners can receive assistance in determining grant or loan eligibility and apply for assistance.
- Lateral connection process, timeline and requirements will be communicated through direct mail to property owners and monthly informational workshops to be held during the connection period.
- Contractor outreach and education will focus on attracting qualified contractors to meet the demand for completing more than 4,000 lateral connections in approximately one year. The County will conduct training sessions to inform contractors of the project's permit requirements. A list of qualified and trained contractors will be provided to the public.

- Septic system reuse options are an important part of the project. As described below, a septic system reuse plan is a project permit requirement and will provide important water resources benefits.

Septic System Decommissioning and Reuse Plan

On June 11, 2010, the California Coastal Commission approved the Coastal Development Permit for the Los Osos Wastewater Project. Condition #2 of that permit required the County to develop a Septic System Decommissioning and Reuse Plan. On February 7, 2012, your Board approved a contract with San Luis Obispo Green Build (now Central Coast Green Building Council) to prepare the Plan.

Condition #2 is a refinement of Condition #88 adopted by the Board of Supervisors on September 29, 2009 with the initial approval of the Coastal Development Permit. The Plan envisioned by Conditions #2 and #88 is intended to maximize the potential for the approximate 4,200 existing septic systems in the Los Osos wastewater service area to provide stormwater runoff control and groundwater infiltration benefits once they are no longer needed for wastewater treatment. The re-purposing of conventional septic systems is a new concept for this area and required careful analysis and consideration of a number of engineering, environmental, and public health questions. In addition, successful plan implementation requires a community outreach and education effort that is tailored specifically to Los Osos. Today's presentation is part of that outreach process.

Tasks completed under contract to date include:

- Research the potential for the reuse of septic system components.
- Develop a suite of feasible alternatives for the reuse of septic system components.
- Prepare system reuse minimum standards designed to protect public and environmental health, and as a guide for construction inspections.
- Adapt Title 19 of the County Ordinance section 19.07.027 to allow for additional septic tank re-use options.
- Prepare Public Education materials, including the Homeowners Guide to Septic System Decommissioning and Reuse (See attachment).
- Public Education Outreach (presentations at Los Osos town hall meetings, contractor outreach meetings, presentation to Los Osos Community Advisory Council); an ongoing task.

Public outreach to date has included presentations at the community townhall meetings, contractor outreach, and a presentation of the draft guide to the Los Osos Advisory Council on September 24, 2015. Three specific homeowner presentations on septic system reuse will occur as the three phases of lateral connections unfold.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and State Water Board are jointly financing the project. Numerous other County departments and local agencies are involved in other Project related efforts, which include preparation of a community Habitat Conservation Plan (Department of Planning and Building), an update to the Local Coastal Plan (Department of Planning and Building), and development of solutions to the community's groundwater basin overdraft which is causing sea water intrusion (Golden State Water, Los Osos Community Services District, and S&T Mutual Water Company, and the County under the jurisdiction of the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court).

The Department of Planning and Building has been working to help develop standards for septic tank reuse and will be issuing permits for connections and septic tank reuse.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial impacts as a result of this action.

RESULTS

Approval of the recommended action will continue progress toward a community wastewater project for Los Osos by continuing to develop the Septic System Decommissioning and Reuse Plan as required by the Coastal Development Permit Conditions of Approval.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Exhibit A – Project Cost to Date
2. Draft Guide (Use That Tank!)

File: LOWWP 300448.03

Reference: 15OCT20BB-1

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